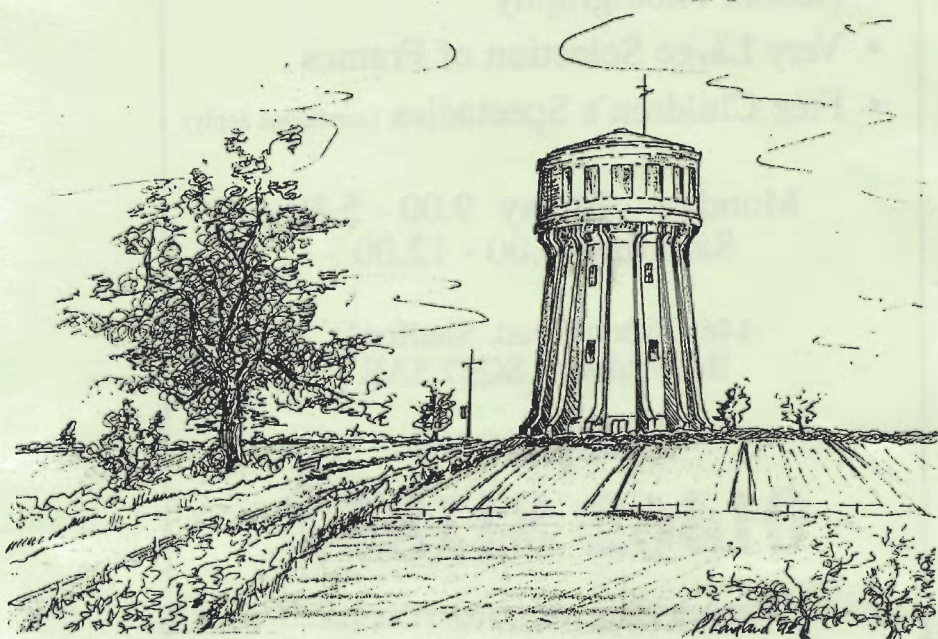


THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



OCTOBER 2005

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and made the most of the few sunny days we had.

I have received no response whatsoever from my suggestion about running articles on the history of Meppershall, so we'll have to forget about that one for the time being! It's a shame because I would have thought it to be quite interesting....

It has come to my attention that certain articles are causing offence to some residents. Apparently, I have been including items which "are nothing to do with the village", and the magazine is becoming "a bit political". I find that quite hard to believe, as I was under the impression that everything published had "something to do with the village", otherwise it wouldn't appear! It might not be what people want to read, but I have always had the view ever since I took over as Editor, that all articles (obviously, within reason) should be published. I guess, as Editor, I have the last say, but I'm also of the opinion that this is a village magazine for everyone in the village to contribute to. It is a means of voicing opinions about things going on in the village, as well as updating residents on events, etc. Therefore, in light of these comments, I have decided to step down as Editor at the Messenger Annual General Meeting due in December 2005. Any nominations for my successor should be sent to me as soon as possible please.

The deadline for articles for the November 2005 edition of the magazine is 12th October 2005. Please either leave them at the Post Office or drop them through my letterbox at 7 Brookmead. Thank you.

Linda Gold
Editor

CONTENTS

Village News	1 - 14
Calendar of Forthcoming Events	15
Who's Who & Village Organisations	16 - 18
Church News	19 - 21
Other	22 - 24
Editor	Linda Gold, 7 Brookmead
Advertising Manager	Steve Ansell, Post Office Stores
Distribution Manager	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road

Dear Editor

In response to the item regarding the ban on photos being taken at Meppershall School events, I feel it's only right that the other point of view is expressed. The "minority" of parents concerned amounts to 10% of the school population – small, but not insignificant. These parents objected to the commercial sale of a DVD, recorded on a school trip, which would then have been in free circulation, beyond the control either of the parents of the children involved or the people who made and copied the film.

Bedfordshire LTA was contacted for their views, before any action was taken, and they were equally uncomfortable with what had taken place. It was therefore with their agreement that the school were contacted. Current Council guidelines advise schools to request permission from parents before taking photos or videos of children, so parents are given control over the use of their child's image. This did not take place in this instance, and it was the absence of this permission that the parents objected to. The decision to ban all photography was never requested, simply the removal from sale of this particular DVD. The decision to ban all photography was made by the head teacher alone.

It is indeed a sad reflection that the world of multi media, the internet and mobile camera phones we live in puts our children at risk when they can be filmed or photographed by strangers, but it is even sadder that other parents cannot understand the desire to protect your own children. Having a camcorder, camera or a mobile phone does not give you the right to invade another person's privacy by taking a photo or film of them without their consent. It might not be pleasant to think of paedophiles or other people who might seek to harm our children living amongst our community, but the reality means we should not be complacent with regard to the safety of our children. It is a consequence that means we have to restrict our photography, then that is a small price to pay to protect our children. If we aren't going to protect them, who is?

We very much enjoy reading the Messenger and fully agree with the comments in your last edition regarding noise disturbance.

We moved into the village recently and have the documentation regarding the Bovis development, including a drawing outlining the final overview of the site. Unfortunately, the drawing and the reality do not match. The majority of the trees planted by Bovis have died, and the shrubs have either died or been pulled up. I would ask every household in the development to contact Bovis about the landscaping, or lack of it. Also residents along the High Street should also raise the issue of the trees at the back of The Acres, which were there to provide a screen but which have died and not been replaced. Please contact Bovis urgently, as at present they are obliged to replace them at their cost. Otherwise, the cost of the landscaping will fall onto us the local taxpayers to fund what should already be in place.

Name & Address supplied

I would just like to say "thank you" to the person or persons who either stole cakes and preserves or money out of the charity box to the value of £7.75. This was taken on 18th August from the stall which I leave un-manned outside my home to raise much needed funds for the Garden House Hospice in Letchworth. They sadly are the losers. To say I feel sick about the incident is putting it mildly, but worst of all is the overwhelming feeling of sadness. I would rather people knock on my door and I would give it to them. I just hope and pray those concerned never need the specialised nursing and care that a terminal illness requires. Hospices have very little funding from the Government and thousands of pounds every week are needed just to keep the door open. Perhaps it is wishful thinking that the money might be put through my letter box, which would indeed help to restore my faith in human nature and return to the Hospice what is rightfully theirs.

I'm afraid I missed the deadline for the last issue of the Messenger, but I would like to say thank you to those who supported my stall at the fete held in Steve and Carolyn's garden. £85 was sent to the Garden House.

Maureen Cole, 5 Rectory Road

Could drivers please take more care when motoring through the Village? The speed limit is 30 mph. PLEASE STICK TO IT! There have been some incidents recently where only a miracle has stopped an accident occurring. Allow more time for your journey. One of these days there is going to be a horrific accident; it could involve you or a member of your family.

Contrary to the belief of some youngsters in the village, there is no-one "paid" to pick up their litter which they freely drop along the road, pavement, front gardens and public places. However, they might not be aware of the fact that dropping litter is an offence which carries a heavy fine!

Please respect the village you live in and keep it tidy for all of us to enjoy. If you cannot find a bin, take your rubbish home and dispose of it there.

Thank you.

Many thanks to those of you who were able to join in the celebrations for Gerry's life. We raised £1,200 for St. John's Hospice in his memory.

Thank you all.

Helen Gillett

It is with sadness the family announces the peaceful passing of Edward "Eddie" Harris on 30th August 2005. He will be a much remembered stalwart of the village, though he lived in Campton for his later years. Sadly with his passing his vast knowledge of Meppershall's history will die with him.

From his family. Rest in Peace.

Thank you to all our friends in the village who have shown such warmth and kindness to us on the recent loss of our father, Terry Daniel. Your sympathy has been much appreciated.

James and Thomas Daniel

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2005

Once again the annual Poppy Appeal approaches. This year there will be collection tins in the usual static sites, pubs, shops and school but there will be a reduced house to house collection.

I hope you will give your support once again to this worthwhile charity.

Many thanks.

Joyce Harris

Village Hall News...

Progress

There have been a number of positive comments received by members of the committee, concerning the recent improvements being carried out at the Hall. It is pleasing to know that the hard work being put in is being noticed and appreciated. In particular, I would like to thank **Graham Walker** and **Paul Carne** for their efforts. We have a long way to go, but progress is being made.

Inside the Hall, the electrical refurbishment has commenced, and should be completed by 30th September. This has been a particularly difficult task for the contractors, who have been constrained by time and budget. And on behalf of the Hall's users, I would like to extend my gratitude for the way in which they have set about the task, ensuring when possible the Hall could continue to function. So to **Tomkins-Waters** of Sheffield, please accept our sincere thanks for all you have done.

And to anyone who had a function or meeting disrupted as a result of this essential work, I would like to say 'thank you' too, as everyone has been very understanding and accommodating.



Help Wanted – Apply Within!
*Volunteers are required to assist with the re-decoration of the main Hall on 23rd, 29th and 30th October. If you are free for a two hour slot on any of those days, and you can wield a paint brush, please contact our rota co-ordinator, **Kate Hall**, on 01462 812869.*

The Village Hall Emergency Fund

We have set a target of **£3,000** to raise by way of our own fund-raising activities for the essential works needed to bring the Hall up-to-scratch. This is money over and above what we hope to raise from various grant applications. By the time we raise it, most of it will have already been spent, as there is much to be done. The work is for the development and

improvement of the existing Hall, and much of this work is essential and overdue.

Thank you to everyone who contributed **fund-raising suggestions** to the Committee. We hope to be in a position to set out our **2006 Events Schedule** in the December edition of the Messenger.

Bonfire Night

The annual Bonfire Night festivities will be going ahead on **Saturday, November 5th** behind the Hall as usual. The gates will open to load the bonfire on 22nd October. Remember; please **only** bring material that will burn. If you bring **non-combustible material** to the site, you could face prosecution for fly tipping! So please, if it won't burn, don't bring it. Also, due to the new play equipment installed by the Parish Council, the site of the fire will be a little further along this year.

During the afternoon of the 5th November, there will be a Make-a-Guy day at the Hall. For a small charge, we would like to invite the children (big and small) along to the Hall to make a Guy! Bring some old clothes with you if you can. Hay will be provided. Last years entries included Homer Simpson and the winner was Queen Victoria (I think!)



Posters will appear in the usual places, announcing times etc.

Please do support these activities, as funds raised will go towards the Emergency Fund. Thank you.

As always, lots of things to see on our web-site. Why not pay us a visit:

www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

By the way – the Women's Institute page looks great!

And you can email us too, at: **post@meppershall.uktc.com**

Kind Regards,
Chris Addams - Chairman

Halloween Warning

Dear Parent/Carer

With the approach of Halloween comes an increase of fear for many residents within our communities. Each year Bedfordshire Police receive calls regarding the Anti Social Behaviour of a few thoughtless individuals whose actions bring alarm, distress and misery to many. Groups of young people roaming residential streets calling at houses 'Trick or Treating' can be distressing, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable.

Sadly, incidents of eggs and flour being thrown at people and their property under the 'Trick or Treat' guise are increasing. To remove the residue of such attacks is an unpleasant task even for the able bodied amongst us. When the elderly and vulnerable are victims, then the remnants of someone's so called 'fun night out' may well be there for sometime. It becomes a constant reminder and causes the same emotional distress as if the incident had just occurred.

*In order to minimise this fear, police officers and support staff from Ampthill and Shefford will be increasing their patrols during the evening of 31st October and will be dealing positively with people whose behaviour is anti social. **If your child is found engaged in such activity, which is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to other members of the public, they will be arrested for the offence of Public Nuisance.***

Persons arrested will be taken to Ampthill Police Station where custody facilities will be available and a decision made regarding their release. It is likely a formal reprimand will be given if they have not come to police notice before, if they have, they may face prosecution. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts will also be considered.

Halloween can be spent enjoyably by young people without the necessity of causing residents discomfort. Young children should be supervised as much for their own safety as well as the safety of others. If you have older children please ask them to consider the feelings of others, ask them not to call on the elderly or vulnerable and restrict their visits to friends or family.

I would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation and trust that you will not have to collect your child from the police station.

*Malcolm Wherry. PC 62
School Liaison Officer.*

TEAM VOLITIO RETURN HOME

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL MONTH ABROAD

The sailing team of Kevin Cooper 18 and Justin Martin 18 have just arrived back into the UK after spending a month away in Europe sailing against the best in the world. They competed in the world championships in hook of Holland finishing 59th but second placed under 21. From this event they learnt lots and have high hopes for next year when they compete in other major championships.

After the world championships they took a long car journey to Germany where they sailed in a world renowned sailing week which is held in a small town of Travamunde. They finished 6th and second GBR boat. After this sailing week team Volitio were back on the road again going back to Holland where they would compete in a large catamaran event which was held just down the road from their world championships.

At the Westland cup team Volitio held themselves together to produce an impressive 5th place overall. They sailed their 18ft catamaran through 3 intense races in big waves and strong winds. After they thought their month couldn't get much better they went to the Europeans on top form having sailed for 3 weeks almost day in day out.

The Europeans were held in the same place as the Westland cup the first day saw light winds and team Volitio put themselves into 7th position. The second day saw strong winds which swung around making the racing difficult however team Volitio sailed consistently to in force their position in 7th and first youth boat. The third day of the championship was windy and wavy yet again team Volitio didn't manage to finish the first race of that day due to a boat breakage however in the other four they sailed well and moved up into 6th place overall. The last day was cancelled due to poor visibility and strong winds so team Volitio finished their months racing with a 6th at their Europeans and being crowned youth European champions.

However this young promising team is still looking for sponsorship so they can try and achieve their aim of winning gold at the Olympics. If you believe you or your company can help then don't hesitate to make contact with them:
www.teamvolitio.org.uk

MEPPERSHALL W.I. September 2005

President Mrs. Barbara Horwood welcomed 28 members and 1 visitor to the September meeting.

Our summer outing to Beth Chattos garden was a very enjoyable day. Future events in the area include Gervaise Phinn coming to the Corn Exchange on Saturday evening 15th October telling tales of life as a School Inspector in the Yorkshire Dales. More details from Box Office 01234 269519. Craft Fair at Flitwick Village Hall on Sunday 16th October. Doors open 10am – 4pm, entrance fee 50p, refreshments available all day. Christmas shopping trip Saturday 19th November dropping off at Covent Garden, coach only £10.50. Murder Mystery evening “Deadlier Still” a play by Claire Jones 1st, 2nd and 3rd December, start 7.30pm with break for supper and bar. More details to follow. Carol Concert at Elstow Abbey Friday 9th December 8pm, refreshments served 7pm – 7.45pm, Salvation Army Band leading the singing. Further details next month.

Good news again for our darts team. We beat Caldecote 3-2.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr. C. Parry on the subject of Royal Ladies of Bedfordshire. He told us about Catherine of Aragon from Spain, daughter of so-called Royal Kings” originally married to Henry VII who only survived for a few months making her a widow at 16. She then spent much of her time at Ampthill Hunting Lodge and married Henry VIII in 1509 when he was 18 and she was 24; she had 6 children, 4 of whom were boys that all died in

infancy. Henry met Ann Boleyn when she was maid-in-waiting to Catherine and he set up a mission in Dunstable to have his marriage to Catherine declared void and she was sent to Buckden and then to Kimbolton where she died in 1536 and is buried at Peterborough. A monument to her was erected in Ampthill Park much later.

The second lady was Dorothy Osborn born 1637 at Chicksands, daughter to the Governor of Guernsey. She might have married Oliver Cromwell and become First Lady but declined. She eventually met William Temple, a diplomat and they spent some time together at St. Malo and then parted but after a very long friendship much of it only by letter, they married and she became Lady of the Major at Chicksands. On the eve of her wedding she contracted smallpox. William nursed her through her illness and she had 9 children of which only 2 survived childhood, a girl who died at 14 and a son who went into Government.

Lastly a short story of Judith Countess of Huntingdon, an important land owner, she lived at Potton and was responsible for the buildings of Elstow Abbey. Her Royal connection was that her daughter became Queen of Scotland. An interesting and amusing evening.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 12th October will be an Auction together with wine, cheese and nibbles to celebrate 90 years of the W.I.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN MEPPERSHALL

CHURCHES

St. Mary's Parish Church

Rector:	Rev. John Harper	
	The Rectory, Church Road	813334
Church Wardens:	Mr. Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street	815944
	Mrs. Brenda Wright, 75 High Street	816446

Parochial Church Council

Secretary:	Mrs. Linda Chillman, 76 Shefford Road	850543
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Bartlett, 14 Taylors Close	811191

Methodist Chapel

Minister:	Rev. P. Snelson, 79 Ampthill Road, Shefford	813284
-----------	---	--------

Roman Catholic Church

Priest:	Father Bennie Noonan	813436
---------	----------------------	--------

SCHOOLS

Meppershall Lower School	Head	Mrs. Murray	813293
Henlow Middle School	Head	Mr. Payne	813733
Samuel Whitbread Upper School and Community College	Head	Mr. Owen	629900
	Adult Education Tutor	Mrs. Robinson	629906

DOCTORS

Cakebread & Partners, The Health Centre, Iveldale Drive, Shefford	814899
Puritz & Collins, The Surgery, 109 Station Road, Lower Stondon	850305

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

County Councillor:	Cllr. Robin Younger	
	Jesmond House, High Street, Flitton	01525 717090
	Email: robin.younger@bedsec.gov.uk	

Surgery/Advice Centre: 1st Friday each month (except August), Shefford Library 10am – 11.30am

District Councillor:	Mr. Paul Carne, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall	857803
	Email: paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk	
	Fax: 01462 857804	

District Councillor:	Mr. Tony Rogers, 3 Poppyhill, Henlow	816305
	Email: tony@rogers@midbeds.gov.uk	
	Fax: 01462 816510	

Parish Council meets 1st Wednesday each month, Methodist Chapel at 7.45pm

Chairman:	Mr. David Foskett, 11 Orchard Close	851770
Clerk:	Mr. C. Waghorn, 19 Icknield Green, Letchworth	637531
	Email: wagers.uk@ntlworld.com	

Member of Parliament:	Mrs. Nadine Dorries, House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	0207 2194239
-----------------------	--	--------------

SHOPS

Roger's Bakery & General Store (next to School)	
Mon-Fri 8.15am – 5.30pm / Sat 8am – 1.30pm	813398

Post Office & Village Store, 6 High Street

Post Office:	Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm & 2pm – 5.30pm (half day Sat)
Shop:	Mon-Thurs 6am – 6pm, Friday 6am – 7pm
	Saturday 6.30am – 7pm, Sunday 6.30am – 1pm

PUB

The Sugar Loaf Public House	25 High Street (Ron and Doreen)	857991
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	--------

ORGANISATIONS

Meppershall Village Hall Committee

Chairman:	Mr. Chris Addams, 9 Hill Top View	07939 144190
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch	817014
Booking Secretary:	Kate Hall, Culpeper House, Chapel Road	812869
Village Hall Telephone Number		817359

<u>Babysitting Circle</u>	Mrs. Sharon Edwards	814326
---------------------------	---------------------	--------

<u>Brownies</u>	Mondays 6pm – 7.30pm	Village Hall	
Brown Owl:	Mrs. Christine Elbourne		811964
Snowy Owl:	Mrs. Suzanne Brightwell		815752

<u>Beavers</u>	Fridays 6pm – 7.15pm	Stondon Village Hall	
Leader:	Mr. Steve Mann		816208
	Tuesdays 6.30pm – 7.30pm	Shefford Scouts HQ	
Leader:	Mrs. Hayley Henshall		817446
Leader (Shillington):	Jan Montgomery		712386

<u>Bingo</u>	Fridays 7pm	Village Hall
--------------	-------------	--------------

Mid Beds Conservative Association

Chairman:	Mrs. Pippa McLuskie, 4 Stondon Road	813417
Secretary:	Mrs. G. Bird	811260

<u>Cubs</u>				
Shefford	Wednesdays	6.45pm	David Cousins	811441
1 st Stondon	Thursdays	7pm – 8.30pm	Mike Hammond	811548
Shillington			Pauline Goodman	711943

<u>Evergreen</u>	Alternate Thursdays 2.30pm	Village Hall	
(over 60s)	Miss E. Ashton (Poppy), 20 Fildyke Road		07931 636544

Friends of St. Mary's Church

Chairman:	Mr. Trevor Thorley, 9 Hoo Road	813357
Secretary:	Mrs. Margaret Evesham, 107 High Street	814291
Treasurer:	Mr. H. Davies, 15 Hoo Road	812127

<u>Shefford Leisure Group</u>	Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street	851397
-------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------

Meppershall Players (Amateur Dramatic Society)

Contact:	John Nye	814113
Secretary:	Karen Mitchell	816336
Treasurer:	Frank Keen	815387

Meppershall School Association

Chairman:	Louise Palmer	850113
Secretary:	Dawn Addams	814707

Meppershall Social Club (see Notice Board for opening times)

Chairman:	Mr. G.R. Walker, 37 Brookmead	815183
-----------	-------------------------------	--------

<u>Meppershall Baby & Toddler</u>	Tuesdays 2pm – 3.30pm	Village Hall	
Chairman:	Claire Penney, 3 Gregory Close		850987
Secretary:	Louise Hutson, 10 Buxton Close		814148
Treasurer:	Karen Lucas, 51a High Street		811581

<u>Playgroup</u>	Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12 noon	Village Hall	
Chairman:	Sarah Saunders		850817
Secretary:	Paula Standbridge		811160
Registrar:	Viv Thorne		850821

<u>Scouts</u>			
Sheffield	Diane Landau	01234	381153
Shillington	Paul Major		834251

<u>Tennis (at Langford)</u>	Neil Franklin		815735
-----------------------------	---------------	--	--------

<u>Womens Institute</u>	2 nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm	Village Hall	
President:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road		816177
Secretary:	Doreen Pritchard		
Press Secretary:	Betty Mather		

<u>Youth Club</u>	Alternate Fridays 7pm	Methodist Chapel	
	Linda & Matt Ford		851567
	Sue & Steve Covington		815736

AMENITIES

Banks	Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Sheffield	01438 202122
	Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm	
Dentist	Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Sheffield	814020
Electrician	Mr. R. Price, 118 Spring Drive, Stevenage	01438 361715
	Mobile:	07710 821878
Fishmonger	Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) – Thursdays approx 11.45am	
Greengrocer	Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) – Fridays 2pm – 6pm	711802
Hedgehog Rescue	Beds & Herts Hedgehog Rescue – call Jeanette	711370
Mobile Library (alternate Wed)	Nursing Home 10am Rectory Road 10.25am	
	High Street/School 10.50am High Street/Taliesen 11.10am	
	Village Hall 11.30am Fildyke Road 12 noon	
	Sheffield Road 12.25pm	
Library	High Street, Sheffield	639070
Kennels/Cattery	Wayside, Chapel Road	813261
Newspapers	Meppershall Village Stores & PO	811252
Plumber	Alan Dellar	814584
Police	Emergencies/Police attendance required	01234 841212
		Or 01582 471212
	Sheffield Police Post (non emergencies)	01234 841212
Livery Yard & Training Centre	Caroline Carter, Fildyke Road	07747 686118
Whitbread Wanderbus		850075

St Mary's Parish Church (C of E) Meppershall
In the united benefice of Meppershall and Shefford

Rector: Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Rd, Meppershall, Shefford SG17 5NA
 Churchwardens: Brenda Wright 816446; Brian Bellamy, Honeysuckle Cottage, 125
 High St, Meppershall

Services in October

Sunday Oct 2 8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 6p.m. Evensong
 Sunday 9 8.30a.m. Holy Communion. 11a.m. Family Service and
 baptism - Blythe Turner
 Sunday 16 8.30a.m. Holy Communion. 6p.m. Evensong
 Sunday 23 (Bible Sunday) 8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 11a.m. Family
 Communion and Sunday School
 Sunday 30 11a.m. United Benefice Communion . Preacher :Rev John Cuthbert
 (Focolare
 Community). Followed by buffet lunch.

Midweek Services:

Wednesdays: 10a.m. Holy Communion (B.C.P.)
 Fridays 7.30p.m. Compline (night time prayer - 15 mins)
 Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer.

On Saturday October 15 The Friends of St Mary's will present a third concert in Church by the celebrated Woburn Sands Brass Band, 7.30p.m. Tickets at £10 may still be available from Roger's Bakery, Meppershall Stores, Margaret Evesham (814291) or Trevor Thorley (813357). Wine and refreshments included. The proceeds will contribute as usual to the needs of our Parish Church.

Thanks to The Friends' good efforts St Mary's will shortly be equipped with a fine new sound system.

This will ensure that voices of all types will be heard without effort, and also provide us with the facility to play recorded music. A Loop amplifier will also be installed, so that hearing aid users will be able to hear directly from the source of the sound. Hopefully all will be in place in time for our Christmas services and Nativity Musical. Also this month:

'Holy Places' - a series of Wednesday evening sessions looking at what makes places special and why people go on pilgrimage. Taize, Walsingham, Holy Island, Corrymeela, etc. October 5, 12, 19, 26 and November 2, 8p.m. at St Michael's Shefford. All welcome at any evening. (details 817337 or 813334).

'Walk thru the Bible' - a refreshing approach to the Old Testament at Henlow Middle School on ..Friday Oct 7, 7-9p.m. and Sat 8, 9-1p.m. Cost £10 including manual. To book please contact Rev John Morley, 01462 700248. Suitable for ages 11- 111.

Church Flowers:

Flower arrangements make such a difference to the beauty of the Church, and contribute so much to a worshipful atmosphere. The small group of arrangers would be delighted to hear from others who would be willing either to: take a turn in arranging; providing flowers and greenery; or donating towards the cost (perhaps on special anniversaries). No expertise needed and plenty of support provided. Please have a word with Viv Clark for more details: 01462 811914.

Housegroups?

From New Testament times onwards Christians have found encouragement and fellowship by meeting informally in small groups, as well as in larger gatherings in purpose built Churches. In recent years there has been a re-emergence of what are known either as house groups, home groups or 'cells'. The purpose is to provide an informal setting to share food together, and to explore some aspect of faith and worship in a relaxed setting. From a scriptural perspective these groups are designed to be an expression of what St Paul means by being 'The Body of Christ' within the circumstances God places us in, in a way that complements what also takes place in the local Church building.

Currently invitations are being sent to those on St Mary's and St Michael's Church Electoral Rolls to attend a 'taster' house group evening at the Rectory in November. If any others would also like to join Sandra and I for an experience of what house groups can be like, please let me know soon, and details will be sent to you. Subsequently those who feel this is an approach that speaks to them will be given opportunity to join a regular group. If you would just like to find out a little more do give me a ring on 813334

John Harper

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH
HIGH STREET, SHEFFORD**
Sunday Masses

First Mass of Sunday

Saturday Evening

6pm

RAF Henlow

9am

Shefford

5.15pm

Shefford

Weekday Services

See notice at Church or telephone

Parish Priest:

Parish Secretary:

Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

Rose Boulton 811547

MEPPERSHALL CHAPEL

What can I say?! Thank you for all the support and encouragement that you have offered in the last few months. When I wrote a few months ago about the struggle for survival at the Chapel I could only have dreamed that there would be such a positive reaction. We have held two open meetings which were very well supported, and following that, plans were made for a new monthly service.

The first service was held on Sunday 11th September at 3pm and 36 people from a variety of denominations attended. We heard about good things that God is doing among the young people of Crusaders through a mission trip to Poland, and the message given was a call to all Christians in Meppershall to come together to encourage one another to know and love God more fully, and work together to reach out serving the village community. There is a definite sense of expectation among those who have come. I certainly feel that God is doing something new in the hearts of people in Meppershall. A number of people have shown a definite interest in a new home group meeting which will aim to encourage people in knowing and loving God more fully, and we have planned monthly services on the second Sunday of each month until the end of January. We still have plenty of challenges to face to do with renovative work required on the building itself, but being honest, my purpose was never just about the survival of a useful community building, good though that is, I hope to see the Christian faith growing and flourishing in Meppershall, with God's Spirit bringing renewal, hope and a powerful sense of community. I know that God can do it, we have to follow and let Him take us there.

Our next service is on 9th October at 3pm and everyone is welcome to join us. With thanks for your continued encouragement and support.

*Rev Phil Snelson
Meppershall Chapel*

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

Our July and August trips were, on the whole were blessed with good weather, so everyone was able to enjoy trips to Ipswich with a harbour cruise on the River Orwell, The Eden Project, Huntingdonshire, The Glenn Miller Festival and Mapledurham – a really delightful place to visit. It really rained on our way there, then the sun delighted us all when we were on the river from Cavisham and remained dry until we were about to come home. When we were scheduled to leave Mapledurham, torrential rain made the narrow roads just like the river!

Now with the evenings drawing in rapidly and Autumn on the horizon a trip is arranged for Thursday 6th October 'Essex Winter Warmer' with a visit to the Chocolate Lady! visiting Thaxted, explore Dick Turpin's country and also see the classic English village of Finchingfield, as well as other quaint Essex Villages. Camden Lock Market by the Canal on Sunday 16th October, a trip to The Poppy Factory in Richmond. Theatre trips included The Magic of the Dance and The Rat Pack. To come: Annie Get Your Gun on Wednesday 5th October – evening performance. We have also booked the ever popular 'Friday Night is Music Night'. The BBC Concert Orchestra will take place, this time at Watford Coliseum on November 1st. All trips leave from Lloyds Chemist, Shefford. Following the success of our trip last December, we have once again booked 'Cruising into Christmas' on Thursday 8th December. March 2006, a 4-night half board trip to Kendal Lake District staying at The County Hotel which is situated in the town centre. The trip includes return executive coach travel from Shefford, excursions, insurance and luggage handling. For a small annual cost, we do send out newsletters each month. We are a friendly group and our aim is to provide companionship for local residents. All monies raised in raffles are donated to Keech cottage Children's Hospice.

For further information on availability, prices etc. please contact Enid on 01462 851397

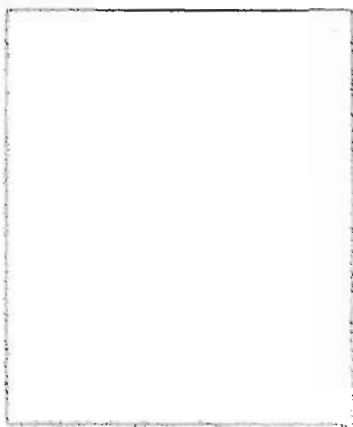
Draw what you think happens next.



2.



4.



A very happy birthday to those of you celebrating birthdays in October

Katie Johnson who will be 5 on the 1st

Lewis Wolton who will be 15 on the 1st

Caitlin Saunders who will be 4 on the 1st

Samuel Derrick who will be 3 on the 2nd

Alistair Clay who will be 12 on the 3rd

Matthew Geneux who will be 5 on the 3rd

Chloe Brightwell who will be 6 on the 8th

Hannah West who will be 6 on the 8th

James Aberdein who will be 9 on the 8th

Sean Allen who will be 14 on the 9th

Daisy Clark who will be 9 on the 19th

Luke Gold who will be 13 on the 20th

James Evans who will be 15 on the 22nd

Laura Scott who will be 12 on the 23rd

Rachel Priestley who will be 14 on the 23rd

Beth Edwards who will be 10 on the 27th

Alexander Davies who will be 3 on the 28th

Lauren Earl who will be 14 on the 29th

and belated birthday wishes to Ryan and Liam Sturgeon who were 8 and 3 in September

If you are under 16 and would like your name added to the birthday page, please call Tracey Norris on 815 694